

MINUTES
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 29, 2008
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

PATTY GILBERTSON
CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Batten, *Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services*
Joe Battle, *Substance Abuse & Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA)-Advocate/Consumer*
JoAnn Burkholder, *Department of Education*
Curtis Coleburn, *Department of Alcoholic Beverage and Control*
Donna Gassie, *Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation*
Patty Gilbertson, *Virginia Drug Court Association*
Catherine Hancock, *Department of Medical Assistance Services*
Janice Hicks, *Department of Health*
Lynette Isbell, *Department of Social Services*
Jamie MacDonald, *Virginia Association Community Services Board/ Prevention*
Hope Merrick, *Governor's Office on Substance Abuse Prevention*
Scott Reiner, *Department of Juvenile Justice*
Inge Tracy, *Department of Corrections*
Gayle Turner, *Department of Criminal Justice Services*
Chuck Walsh, *Virginia Association of Community Services Board*
William Williams, *Virginia Association of Community Services Board/Treatment*

GUEST:

Jerome Bell, *Consumer/Advocate*
Mark Blackwell, *Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance-Consumer/Advocate*
Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr. *SJR77 Joint Subcommittee, Chair*
Martha Kurgans, *Office of Child and Family Services, DMHMRSAS*
John Shinholser, *SJR 77 Joint Subcommittee-Citizen member*
Sarah Stanton, *SJR77 Joint Subcommittee Staff Attorney-Division of Legislative Services*

STAFF:

Lynette Bowser, *DMHMRSAS*
Marc Goldberg, *DMHMRSAS*
Malcolm King, *Office of Child and Family Services, DMHMRSAS*
Mellie Randall, *DMHMRSAS*
Julie Truitt, *DMHMRSAS*
Karen Walters, *Office of Attorney General*

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order by the Chair and opened with introductions by those in attendance. The Chair thanked Mark Blackwell for hosting the meeting at, SAARA Center for Recovery.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JULY 7, 2008 MEETING MINUTES.

Council reviewed the minutes that were previously e-mailed to the members. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Ken Batten and seconded by Curtis Coleburn. With there being no further discussion the July 7 minutes were approved and the motion carried.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. UPDATE ON SJR 77 – CURRENT ACTIVITIES: Mellie Randall gave members a brief overview of the presentations during the July 31 meeting of the joint subcommittee.

- Nathalie Molliet-Ribet (JLARC staff) presented the findings of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission's report, Mitigating the Cost of Substance abuse in the Commonwealth.
- Dr. Mady Chalk, Director, Center for Policy Analysis and Research, Treatment Research Institute (TRI), discussed substance abuse treatment; why traditional approaches to measuring success is not necessarily appropriate; and stressed that substance abuse treatment is the management of a chronic disease or disorder and the success of treatment cannot be appropriately evaluated strictly in terms of outcomes. Dr. Chalk has offered to provide information to the joint subcommittee on promising substance abuse treatment models that have been utilized in other states.
- Ray Ratke, Deputy Commissioner, DMHMRSAS, responded to the JLARC report on behalf of DMHMRSAS. He discussed some of the pertinent issues that DMHMRSAS faces in reference to capacity, access, financing, measuring outcomes, etc.
- A coalition from far southwestern Virginia discussed the significant issues that the area is facing with regard to abuse of prescription drugs and the devastating impact that it has had on their community. The coalition represented treatment, economic development, business, and law enforcement.

B. SECOND SJR 77 MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 25:

- Department of Corrections response to JLARC focused on its ability to measure outcomes from their transitional therapeutic communities (TC) as well as the programs that are offered in the institutions. DOC reported its ability to provide some outcome measures in terms of re-incarceration. The speakers explained the programs that are provided within the DOC; who the providers are in the community and eligibility to enter the available DOC programs.

- Mary Ann Bergeron, Executive Director of the Virginia Association of Community Services Board provided a presentation of the community services boards; the history of substance abuse within the community services boards; funding trends; capacity issues and access issues.
- Judge Catherine Hammond, Henrico County Drug Court, represented the Drug Court Association. Judge Hammond's presentation provided information about the structure of the drug courts and what the drug court model offers as well as how drug courts fit into and contribute to the whole continuum.

Ms. Randall highlighted the JLARC report recommendation that the Council, form a workgroup of state agencies that provide treatment to define common outcome measures. Will Williams, Chair of the Council's data work group, reported on an initial meeting with the workgroup to address the recommendation. Mr. Williams stated that the group is developing a good deliverable based on a balance score card and strategy mapping. The score card and strategy mapping is expected to be ready for presentation in a draft format by November.

Ms. Randall advised the Council to continue to think about or develop a plan for its report to the Governor and the General Assembly. She encouraged the Council to focus on the aspects of SJR 77 when crafting the 2008 Annual Report and Plan.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. COMMENTS ON "SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND OLDER ADULTS" FOR 2008

ANNUAL REPORT AND PLAN: Members were provided, via email and hardcopy at the Council meeting a draft copy of a report that summarized a presentation from staff from ABC and DMHMRSAS on the effects of substance abuse on older adults during the April 9, 2008 Council meeting. During the April meeting the Council by consensus agreed to have this emerging topic as a Chapter in the 2008 Annual Report and Plan. The Council had no discussion or review.

B. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

- Discussion on drafting and finalizing the Council's 2008 annual report and plan. Ms. Randall suggested that the report be completed before Thanksgiving so that appropriate approvals can be obtained by early December. The next Council meeting a draft is expected to be prepared and ready for review. Therefore, the Council should plan to review the draft at the next Council meeting.
- Members discussed how they wanted to approach the development of the Council's report for the coming year:
 - The Chair stated that she expects that the report will likely coincide with ideas similar to SJR77 as well as include at a minimum a chapter on substance abuse and the impact on older adults.

- Mr. Batten suggested that there is a section in the report about maintenance of effort (MOE). If there are significant reductions in the state general fund budget, DMHMRSAS could potentially face similar reductions in the SAPT federal block grant funds. Potentially it could be twice the amount of money lost. Therefore, it is suggested that the Council address this issue in the report. Ms. Randall, Ken Batten and Will Williams will draft appropriate language for the report to address the MOE issue and submit it to Council members for review and comment.
- Will Williams suggested the report contain a “state of the union” section referencing substance abuse programs and related services as it pertains to Virginia’s current system of care. Some data suggest that 10% of the persons in Virginia who are in need of addiction services are not receiving any services; we are not addressing the decrease of funding over last 5 to 10 years; we are not addressing access to care, etc. and the issues that are not being addressed are becoming serious challenges for the system itself. The “state of the union” can be possibly reflect the findings from SJR 77. A committee was appointed by the Chair to work on drafting a “state of union” section. The committee will include Will Williams, Patty Gilbertson, JoAnn Burkholder, Inge Tracy, Mark Blackwell and Joe Battle. Mr. Williams will develop a template of what he needs and send to committee for comment.
- Mr. Batten suggested that the issue of prescription drug abuse in southwest Virginia also be include. Ms. Randall will provide Council information about the status in far southwest Virginia regarding the issue of prescription drug abuse. The information will be e-mailed to Council members for comment and discussion at the next meeting.
- Scott Reiner suggested that there is inclusion of a section on barriers to utilizing Medicaid funds and maximizing those revenues in the context of other reductions. Ms. Hancock highlighted some of the barriers for programs in accessing these funds especially issues around billing for the services. The Chair asked Ms. Hancock and Marc Goldberg to draft this section of the report.
- The Chair also asked the group to craft a chapter on the status of prevention services. Chuck Walsh suggested that the report include data on how/why prevention works; highlight the lack of allocated state dollars for prevention services and the link between

MH and substance abuse. JoAnn Burkholder, Jamie McDonald, Hope Merrick and Chuck Walsh are to craft this section.

- Joe Battle suggested mentioning some of the cost savings and economic benefit of providing treatment, early intervention and prevention services.
 - The Chair suggested as templates/drafts for the report on Medicaid, “state of the union,” prevention, the Council’s work with SJ77 are completed that they will be sent out to members for comment.
 - The Chair also suggested that the Council give a presentation of its report to the SJ77 committee. Staff will coordinate presentation with SJR 77 staff.
- Ms. Randall introduced a prior topic raised in the JLARC report and discussed by Council regarding \$18 million of un-accounted funds for substance use disorder treatment that were transferred by ABC to the general fund for SA services. Ms. Randall suggested that the Council keep focused on this issue and at the appropriate time it be addressed with the General Assembly. Mr. Walsh stated that the public policy committee of the VACSB has discussed this issue regarding the \$18 million. The Substance Abuse Council of the VACSB has suggested that the VACSB introduce legislation to earmark the new dollars from the sales associated with ABC stores being open on Sunday. These additional resources be fully allocated for substance use disorder prevention and treatment.
 - The Chair thanked Mark Blackwell for the SAARA Recovery Center’s hospitality and providing the lunch, as well as thanks to the staff at Rubicon Culinary Arts Program for preparing the lunches. Alice Smith, Nutritionist for the program Healthy Heart Plus Program, a partner with Rubicon, provided a flyer that described the catering service. This partnership is an example of people in recovery being productive and increasing needed skills to support their personal recovery. Mr. Blackwell also gave a description of the services that are provided at the SAARA Recovery Center.
- C. SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 77 (2008):** Senator Hanger (Chair), John Shinholser (citizen member), and Sarah Stanton (staff) of SJR77 joint sub-committee joined the Council as a work group to address pending issues related to SJR77’s work.

Senator Hanger noted that the work of SJR77 joint sub committee is expected to raise the profile of substance use disorder issues as well as coordinate and present ideas to members of the General Assembly. The desired result is to

have a greater acceptance of addressing issues associated with substance use disorders. Senator Hanger acknowledged that this is a period of economic challenges but the current subcommittee work projects beyond the next general assembly session. The Senator stressed a sustained effort in presenting cost efficient and effective means to addressing substance use so that the information is available as funding streams become available. An area of interest for the subcommittee is supporting the documented information from the JLARC report that is related to costs to the State when there is a lack of, inappropriate or ineffective treatment. Additionally, the Senator suggested that reporting data or findings by legislation jurisdiction could be helpful to legislators. It is noted that the current cost findings from the JLARC study are conservatively low.

Senator Hanger stated that the current SJR77 joint subcommittee is funded for one year. It is his hope that the committee will reflect positive work and the committee study period will be extended. Senator Hanger requested that the Council's recommendations support continuing the SJR77 joint subcommittee for at least an additional two years.

Ms. Stanton stated that her function on the committee is to collect information and provide the information to the SJR77 members. She suggested that Council members e-mail or call her with anything that may be relevant to the subcommittee's work. Information on cost effective models would be beneficial to the SJR77 committee.

Ms. Gilbertson inquired about the reporting process for SJR77. Senator Hanger stated the report from SRJ77 will go to the committees that have jurisdiction and to the members of the House and Senate. The report's recommendations will be reflected through legislation and budget amendments introduced by legislators. Ms. Stanton stated that the Division of Legislative Services will write the report which will be submitted for approval. After approval, the Division of Legislative Automated Systems will publish the report and it will be made available immediately to all members of the General Assembly. This is expected to be completed prior to the beginning of the next (2009) General Assembly session.

Mellie Randall responded to Senator Hanger's concern about expansion of services. She explained that capacity expansion is very dependent on workforce development, and that there are simply not enough people trained to work in addictions. Professional schools often do not include addictions in their curricula, and the workforce is "aging out." Therefore, even if there is an influx of money it would take a while to increase the workforce to deliver services that are effective. The system is being supported with existing people who have a lot of experience and helping them be current on the most up to date ways to delivering services. The reality is that there are few trained

professionals entering the ranks who understand substance use disorder treatment or who know how to deliver effective services in this area. SJR77 should take workforce issues into account when planning for the future of addiction services.

The Chair offered the expertise of the Council and its members as a resource for the subcommittee and the Council looks forward to working with SJR77 members and being able to present the 2008 report and plan at the December meeting.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mr. Shinholser advocated for additional recovery community centers, such as SAARA. He requested an opportunity some time in the future to present to the Council about recovery centers and the associated advantages.
- Joe Battle also advocated participation of more consumer involvement with people entering into the system, because consumers can model recovery and know what the individual has to do for successful recovery.
- Ms. Martha Kurgans, DMHMRSAS Office of Child and Adolescent Services, noted a concern that issues and services related to pregnant and parenting women are not addressed in the previously mentioned JLARC report. Ms. Kurgans encouraged Senator Hanger to evaluate reduced economic costs and the costs to children when there is early intervention.

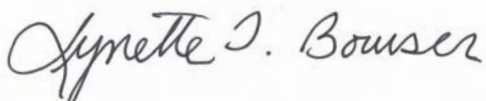
VI. SCHEDULED NEXT MEETING DATE

The date of the next meeting will be on November 13 in Richmond. After receiving workgroup input a draft of the report is expected to be emailed to the Council on November 6, 2008 for comment at the November 13th meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business a motion was made by Ken Batten and seconded by William Williams to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynette T. Bowser